

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 were pending when last examined. With this Response, Applicants have amended Claims 1, 9 and 13 and cancelled Claims 5-8. All pending claims are shown in the detailed listing above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

Claims 5-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants have cancelled Claims 5-8, thus rendering moot any rejection of these claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Murphy et al., U.S. Patent 6,185,695 B1. Applicants respectfully traverse.

As discussed above, Applicants have cancelled Claims 5-8, thus rendering moot any rejection of these claims. With regard to the remaining claims, Applicants have amended the claims to more particularly define the collaborative aspect of the invention.

Claim 1 as amended recites in pertinent part, "A method of distributed collaborative computing comprising: providing a collaboration function for supporting a conference wherein a plurality of participants collaborate with each other using respective computers connected over a global-area network...." Likewise, Claim 9 as amended recites in pertinent part, "A computer-readable medium storing a computer program executable by a plurality of server computers, the computer program comprising computer instructions for: providing a collaboration function for supporting a conference wherein a plurality of participants collaborate with each other using respective computers connected over a global-area network...." Similarly, Claim 13 as amended recites in pertinent part, "A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave, comprising computer instructions for: providing a collaboration function for supporting a conference wherein a plurality of participants

collaborate with each other using respective computers connected over a global-area network....”

Murphy et al. does not disclose or teach such limitations. Indeed, the concept of collaboration is nowhere to be found in Murphy et al., nor is it inherent in the disclosure of Murphy et al. As such, Claims 1, 9, and 13 are not anticipated by the cited reference.

For at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of Claims 1, 9, and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) and to allow these claims. Furthermore, Claims 2-4, 10-12, and 14-16 depend from Claims 1, 9, and 13 and include further limitations. For at least these reasons, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 2-4, 10-12, and 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) be withdrawn and these claims be allowed.

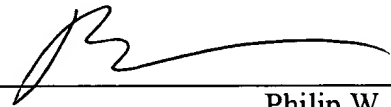
CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request that the pending claims be allowed and the case passed to issue. Should the Examiner wish to discuss the Application, it is requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned at (415) 772-1200.

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Respectfully submitted,

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